

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00080 240849Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 USIA-06 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00
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FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2496
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L DURBAN 80

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT SF
SUBJECT: WALTER FELGATE: RELATIONSHIP TO CHIEF BUTHELEZI

REF: A. JOHANNESBURG 197, B.DURBAN A-04, C. 75 PRETORIA A-229,
D. DURBAN A-03

1. REFTTEL A REPORTED TRAVEL TO U.S. OF WALTER ELGATE, ALONG
WITH BUTHELEZI LIEUTENANT GIBSON THULA, FOR PURPOSE OF SEEKING
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR NEW BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSPAPER,
THE NATION. FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON FELGATE
MAY BE OF INTEREST TO DEPT SHOULD QUESTIONS ARISE AS TO FELGATE'S
INTEREST VIS-A-VIS BUTHELEZI AND INKATHA.

2. POST'S INFORMATION COMES FROM SEVERAL SOURCES AMONG COTERIE
OF WHITE CONFIDANTS AND NEWS REPORTERS CLOSE TO CHIEF BUTHELEZI
ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, FELGATE WIELDS GROWING INFLUENCE WITH
THE CHIEF (ALTHOUGH BUTHELEZI HAS PERSONALLY DENIED THIS ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS). FELGATE, A WHITE NATIVE-BORN SOUTH AFRICAN,
REPORTEDLY HAS KNOWN BUTHELEZI FOR MANY YEARS BUT ONLY RECENTLY
BEGAN ACTIVE COLLABORATION WITH HIM. FELGATE'S RISE TO A POSITION
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OF INFLUENCE CAME ABOUT RATHER QUICKLY AND WHILE OUR SOURCES
HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO ADMIT AS MUCH, IT APPEARS HE MAY HAVE
ACHIEVED AS MUCH, OR MORE, INFLUENCE WITH BUTHELEZI AS ANY
OTHER WHITE CONFIDANT. FELGATE ACTS AT TIMES AS AN UNOFFICIAL
SECRETARY TO BUTHELEZI; FOR EXAMPLE HE PLAYED AN EFFECTIVE
AND HELPFUL ROLE IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS WITH CONGRESSMAN
DIGGS AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE RHODES DURING THEIR S.A.

VISITS LAST DECEMBER.

3. MORE RECENTLY IT HAS BEEN ALLERED BY SOURCES THAT FELGATE IS ACTIVE IN DRAFTING ALL OR PARTS OF BUTHELEZI'S SPEECHES, INCLUDING THOSE ABOUT TO BE MADE IN WESTERN U.S. IN SPEECHES BEGINNING IN LATTER PART OF 1976, BUTHELEZI HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF U.S. AND WEST, CITING VESTED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS AS BEING SUPPORTIVE OF APARTHEID (REF B). ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, BUTHELEZI EMBARKED ON THIS LINE OF ASSERTION ONLY AFTER ASSOCIATION WITH FELGATE BEGAN. SOURCES CLAIM THAT FELGATE IS, IN FACT, AUTHOR OF THESE VIEWS. POST IS NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THIS, BUT IT IS KNOWN THAT FELGATE, WRITING UNDER PSEUDONYM "JOHN PARKIN", AUTHORED A STORY CRITICAL OF U.S. ENTITLED "BEWARE AMERICANS BRINGING GIFTS" FEATURED IN FIRST EDITION OF NEW BLACK NEWSPAPER, THE NATION (REF C). SOURCES ALSO CONTEND THAT FELGATE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PORTIONS OF RECENT INKATHA "STATEMENT OF BELIEF" (REF D) INCLUDING CONTROVERSIAL "REDISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH" PLANK WHICH IS CAUSING CONCERN AMONG PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE DUE TO DISCUSS STATEMENT WITH INKATHA.

4. FELGATE'S OFFICIAL POSITION IS DIRECTOR OF INKATHA-CONTROLLED PUBLISHING COMPANY AND IT IS APPARENTLY IN THIS CAPACITY THAT HE NOW IS IN U.S. POST WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO WHICH DEPT OR FTHER INFO ADDRESSES MAY DEVELOP ON FELGATE OR HPS ACTIVITIES IN U.S. OR ELSEWHERE IN SOUTH AFRICA.
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Message Attributes

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